

**HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD
SEPTEMBER 22, 2010 MINUTES**

The Human Relations Advisory Board of the City of Mesa met in a regular Human Relations Advisory Board Meeting September 22, 2010, 6:00 p.m. in the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E. First Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT

James May, Chair
Rory Gilbert, Vice Chair
Terry Benelli
Ana Cadillo
Hong Chartrand
Stacey Dillon
Denise Heap
Frank Johnson
Wayne Manske
Lela Hinds Peterson
Orchidia Peterson

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Mary Berumen
Jennifer Hedges
Karen Stegenga

GUESTS

Carmen Conejo

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Mr. May welcomed audience and new board members.

2. Approval of minutes from the May 26, 2010 board meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Benelli to approve the May 26, 2010 Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) minutes. Ms. Heap seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of minutes from the August 28, 2010 board retreat.

A motion was made by Ms. Gilbert to approve the August 28, 2010 board retreat minutes. Mr. Manske seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Discuss and approve the revised 2010/2011 Strategic Plan.

Mr. May reviewed HRAB goals and the two Ad Hoc Project Teams.

Ms. Gilbert stated that Action Item #4 was expanded to include other populations which still need to be written. Also, the exploration into social media and submitting articles is a separate action item. Ms. Heap stated that Action Item #4 was assigned to both Ad Hoc Teams.

A motion was made by Ms. Hinds-Peterson to approve the 2010/2011 Strategic Plan as amended. Ms. Heap seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Hear a presentation from Carmen Cornejo regarding the Dream Act Coalition.

Ms. Cornejo explained that the Dream Act Coalition is a proposal that has been discussed in Congress since 2001. It has been re-introduced every year but unfortunately has never made it for a full vote. Under the provisions of this bill, those immigrants who came to the United States as children (under the age of 16 and have completed High School or earned a GED) and are part of our communities are eligible for temporary legal status under certain conditions. Upon completion of two years of post secondary education or two years of military service, if the applicant demonstrates good moral character, he or she can apply for permanent residency.

More information about the Dream Act Coalition can be found at: <http://www.dreamactaz.org>.

Ms. Heap asked if the original co-sponsor of the Dream Act bill, Utah Senator Orin Hatch, voted yes on this bill in legislation just days ago?

Ms. Cornejo answered that Senator Hatch voted no because the Dream Act was attached to the Defense Authorization Bill that the Senator and others did not approve. The Dream Act has bi-partisan support and the Dream Act organization interpreted the no vote was not against the Dream Act but what the Dream Act was attached too.

Ms. Cadillo asked if students do not serve in the military or attend college, will they still be picked up and detained.

Ms. Cornejo answered that yes, if law enforcement were to stop the student for any reason and the student is not actively in the military or enrolled in secondary education they will be detained.

Mr. May asked if this legislation is currently being brought back into the forefront.

Ms. Cornejo answered that yes, Dream Act members are contacting legislators daily to keep this bill at the forefront.

6. Items from Citizens Present.

No items from citizens present.

7. Hear an update, discuss and provide direction on items presented by the:

a. Ad Hoc Community and Education Project Team

- Give an update on the Hate Crime Project.

Ms. Heap gave an update on the continuing research and progress made by the Ad Hoc Team.

- Give an update on Honoring Veterans.

Ms. Heap read her proposal for honoring returning Mesa Veterans. The Ad Hoc Team will meet again to discuss and provide direction on the proposal.

- Give an update on community presentations or other educational activities.

Ms. Heap gave an update of the community education events discussed by the Ad Hoc Team which included working with Councilmember Dina Higgins' Faith Based Initiative and to invite leaders of community groups, civic groups, and religious groups to a Panel Discussion in January or February 2011. Ms. Heap proposed that Mr. Bill Strauss from the Arizona Anti-Defamation League, Barbara McCullough-Jones, and three other individuals representing the African American community, Hispanic community and a representative from the Muslim community be a part of the panel.

Ms. Heap also explained the proposal to bring Mr. Strauss to speak to the full board or the Ad Hoc Team to discuss the local hate crimes happening within Mesa. Ms. Heap further explained the discussion to have a "Meet Yourself" and/or a "Global Village" Spring 2011. She also briefly explained the idea to have participatory meetings where people meet in small groups and talk about issues; to bring the community together.

Ms. Gilbert explained that the Ad Hoc Team will meet again with best practices for the community dialogue event. If members of the board would like to give their input on formats for this dialogue, please pass them on to Jennifer to give to the Ad Hoc Team.

- Give an update on Board participation in the 2011 MLK Celebration.

Ms. Heap explained the January 2011 MLK, Jr. Celebration events happening in Mesa. More information regarding these events can be found at:
<http://www.mesamlk.org/>.

The Ad Hoc Team made a motion that the board participate in the parade and purchase a table at the festival on Monday, January 17; additionally the board will take part in the Celebration Dinner on Saturday, January 15. The board was asked to determine who will be attending the Celebration Dinner by the next HRAB meeting. Tickets will then be purchased by Jennifer.

The motion carried unanimously.

b. Ad Hoc Marketing Strategies Project Team

- Give an update on the progress made on logo, brochure, and Web.

The Ad Hoc Team will meet within the coming week to approve the logo and brochure. The Ad Hoc Team will look into including Web links to the information mentioned in the HRAB meetings as well as community events being planned.

Mr. May asked about featuring board members on the Web such as a getting to know you type bio.

Ms. Berumen will check with the City's Public Information Office regarding its ability to update this type of material.

- Give an update on the progress made on updating and adding to the emerging community list.

The Ad Hoc Team will meet within the coming week. Any community contacts the board has should be passed on to Jennifer to be added to the master list.

8. Give an update on ADA and disabilities issues.

Ms. Berumen reported that the ADA Coordinator Coalition will begin providing training for city's ADA Coordinators. More information on those trainings will be forthcoming.

Ms. Gilbert asked if the board will continue to be updated on transportation issues affecting the disabled. Ms. Berumen will schedule a presentation to hear about how current budget cuts will affect transportation.

9. Discuss and provide direction on board and committee meeting attendance.

Ms. Berumen explained that after three consecutive absences, a letter from the Mayor will be sent asking if the board member still has the time to commit to the board. Ms. Berumen asked that if you cannot attend a monthly board meeting that you notify both herself and Jennifer Hedges by the Monday before the meeting.

Mr. May asked about an excused vs. unexcused absence. Ms. Berumen stated that the board determines if the absence is excused or unexcused.

Mr. May stated that the same rules should apply then to the Ad Hoc Project Team and those assignments are listed in the strategic plan.

10. Mesa Police Department Report.

Crime Prevention Officer, Ms. Karen Stegenga informed the board of the data from the Quarterly Hate Crimes Report (Apr-Jun 2010). Mr. May asked how the department determines what is a hate crime. Ms. Stegenga briefly explained to the best of her ability what the steps are when an officer arrives on scene.

Ms. Stegenga reported that the Chief's Community Forums will continue, the next forum meeting is Thursday, October 7, at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room at the Central Station (120 N. Robson).

11. Diversity Officer's Report:

- a. Hear an update on the Diversity Office and Neighborhood Outreach Office activities.

Ms. Berumen informed the board that her responsibilities have grown to include the Diversity Office, the Neighborhood Outreach Office, Fair Housing and Human Services Office. A new staff member will come on board October 4 and will assist the HRAB and the Housing Services Board (HSB).

Ms. Berumen expressed her concern that the board continues to look at ADA issues despite the Ad Hoc Disabilities Project Team being disbanded at the Strategic Planning session. The HRAB was charged with looking into ADA and disability issues affecting the City. Ms. Gilbert shared that the board discussed and agreed at the Board Retreat to have a standing agenda item which will call for updates and discussion of any and all ADA and disability issues.

12. Hear an update, discuss and provide direction on the Regional Human Relations meeting held September 15.

Mr. May gave an update on the Regional Human Relations meeting hosted by the Town of Gilbert. The Regional team discussed SB1070, HRAB best practices, HRAB successes, and current HRAB projects and action items.

Mr. May stated that Mesa's HRAB will host the next quarter's Regional meeting.

13. Report on conferences and/or meetings attended.

Ms. Gilbert informed the board on the monthly Diversity Leadership Alliance (DLA) workshop, Thursday, September 23 in Downtown Phoenix. The discussion topic is bias issues. Also, the DLA Annual Conference is Tuesday, October 19 in Downtown Phoenix. The Annual Conference is free but you must register. More information about the DLA can be found at: <http://www.diversityleadershipalliance.org/default.asp>

Ms. Dillon attended the 4th Annual Labor of Love Community Baby Shower presented by Women of Power International. More information about the Women of Power International organization can be found at: <http://www.wopim.org/>

Ms. Dillon will also attend the Annual Officer's Assistance Fund Golf Tournament on Saturday, September 25.

14. Scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information.

- a. Discuss and provide direction on meeting dates for November and December 2010.

Mr. May explained that the November and December 2010 meetings fall days before the holidays. The board discussed meeting date options and decided that the November and December will be combined into one meeting on Wednesday, December 1, 2010.

Ms. Berumen clarified who is being scheduled to speak to the board Saul Solis was scheduled to speak to the board this month regarding the East Valley Coalition on Immigration Reform. The board discussed and decided that Mr. Solis will be added to the November HRAB agenda.

Ms. Berumen would also like to have Jason Wong, National Association of Asian American Professionals, present to the board to give an update on the status and growth of Asian Americans in the Valley. The boards discussed and decided that Mr. Wong will be added to the October HRAB agenda.

Mr. May requested that the board receive an ADA update and a presentation from the City Human Resources Director to discuss the city's Affirmative Action Plan. He also requested an update on the board's Anti-Discrimination Ordinance efforts.

Mr. May requested again the possibility of purchasing name badges for board members and the possibly of getting business cards. Ms. Dillon suggested that the Ad Hoc Communications and Marketing Project Team can look into creating business cards. Ms. Berumen will look into purchasing name badges.

Mr. May encouraged new board members to receive periodic City Newsletters, newsletters inform citizens of community events and volunteer needs. More information and to sign up to receive email newsletters can be found here: <http://mesaaz.gov/Home/ListServ.aspx>

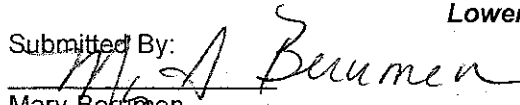
Mr. May reminded the board that any email communication received from Mary or Jennifer needs to be returned to only them. Do not reply all as this violates Open Meeting Law.

15. Adjourn

Mr. May adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:51 p.m.

*The next regular meeting is on October 27, 2010, at 6:00 p.m.
Lower Level, City Council Chambers.*

Submitted By:


Mary Berumen,
Diversity Office Director